

REMARKS

Applicants herein elect, without traverse, Group II (claims 9-14) for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-8 and 15-18 are withdrawn from consideration. It is understood that claims 1-8 and 15-18, drawn to the non-elected inventions (Groups I and III), will remain pending, albeit withdrawn from consideration on the merits at this time. Applicants retain the right to present the non-elected claims, 1-8 and 15-18 in a divisional application.

Request for Rejoining of Claims

Applicants have elected claims 9-14 (Group II) drawn to a product; a monoclonal antibody (PTA-4621) and the clone encoding said monoclonal antibody. The non-elected claims 1-8 and 15-18 (Groups I and III) are drawn to methods/processes which are limited to the use of a specific monoclonal antibody encoded by the clone deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number PTA-4621, i.e. the monoclonal antibody of elected Group II, thus, a search of the non-elected claims, 1-8 and 15-18, would encompass this specific monoclonal antibody. If the examined claims of the Group II invention are deemed to be allowable, rejoinder of the remaining claims (1-8 and 15-18) in accordance with the decision in *In re Ochiai* is respectfully requested; since the remaining claims (1-8

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and 15-18) are limited to the use of a specific monoclonal antibody encoded by the clone deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number PTA-4621. If the monoclonal antibody encoded by the clone deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number PTA-4621 is found to be novel, methods and processes limited to its use should also be found novel.

CONCLUSION

Now that Applicants have fully responded to the Office Action mailed on January 12, 2006, an examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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